

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **FAX RECEIVED**

In re Application of: Efstathiou et al.

Art Unit: 1656

MAR 09 2001

Application No. 09/617,178

Filed: July 17, 2000

For: VIRAL PROTEIN BINDING COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS

Examiner: Alexander H. Spiegler

Date: March 8, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE
GROUP 1600

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any documents referred to as being attached are being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via 703-308-4242 on March 8, 2001.

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 4

This amendment is submitted in response to the restriction requirement, dated January 25, 2001, for which a one-month period for reply was set, making a response due on or before February 25, 2001. Applicants herein petition for a one-month extension of time, and submit the required fee, making the response due on or before March 25, 2001.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-16.

Please add the following new claims:

- SUB B1**
17. (New) A method of blocking binding of a chemokine to a receptor for the chemokine on the surface of a cell, comprising contacting the cell with a M3 protein, or a homologue thereof, thereby blocking the binding of the chemokine to the receptor.
18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the chemokine is a CXC, CC, C, or a CX3C chemokine.